



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



## Black Rock Lock and Tonawanda Harbor, NY

### Harbor Features

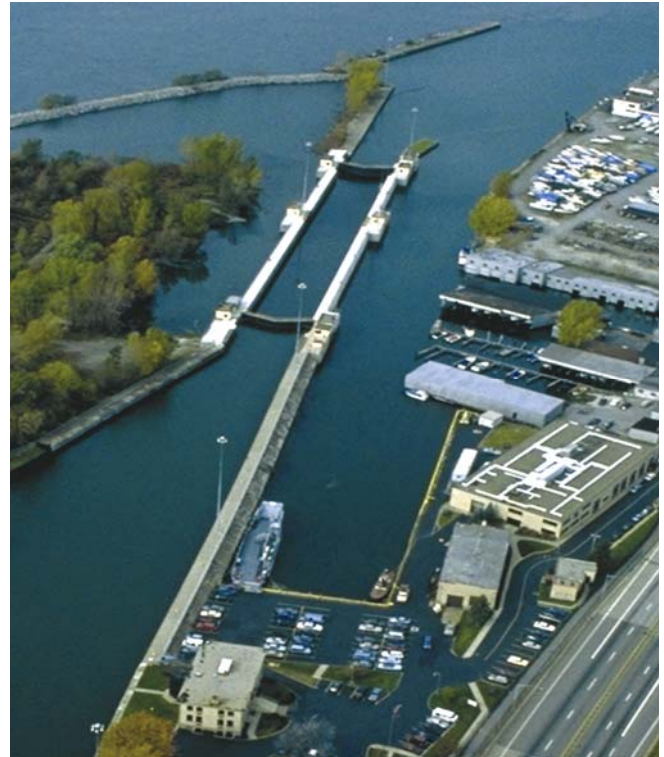
- Located on Niagara River in the city of Buffalo, Erie County, New York.
- Authorization: River & Harbor Acts of 1888, 1902, 1905, 1916, 1919, 1922, 1925, 1934, 1935, 1945 and 1954.
- Deep draft commercial project.
- The Black Rock Lock and Channel permit pleasure craft and commercial vessels to travel between Buffalo Harbor and Tonawanda Harbor.
- The Black Rock Lock can accommodate pleasure craft and commercial vessels up to 625 feet long with drafts up to 21 feet.
- The Bird Island Pier is approximately 2 miles long and forms the west side of the Black Rock Channel.
- The Black Rock Channel is a 3.5 mile Federal channel connecting Buffalo Harbor and Black Rock Lock.
- Major stakeholders include U.S. Coast Guard, Marathon Ashland Petroleum, NOCO Energy Corp., United Refining Co., and NRG Huntley Power Plant.

### Project Needs

- In addition to routine operation and maintenance (O&M), FY10 needs include the following: controls upgrades, operating and guard gate sill repairs, lower gate fendering repairs, removal of the middle gates, Bird Island Pier repairs, project condition surveys and maintenance dredging.
- The current sediment backlog within the functional channel areas is estimated at approximately 675,000 cubic yards.

### Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Failure to adequately fund routine O&M could result in total or temporary closure of the lock.



- Failure to dredge within channel will result in continued shoaling and reduced channel dimensions; resulting in light loading, increased transportation costs and unsafe navigation conditions.
- Failure to repair the Lower Operating Gate Sill and Lower Guard Gate Sill will result in continued degradation and eventual failure of these lock components, increased future maintenance costs and total or temporary lock closure.
- Elimination of the US connection to the Intercoastal Waterway from Lake Erie.
- Inability for commercial vessels to reach delivery destinations on the Upper Niagara River.
- Significant loss of jobs both locally and regionally.

### **Transportation Importance**

- Commodities shipped or received through the lock include coal and petroleum.
- The lock provides the only means for deep draft commercial vessels to reach delivery ports on the upper Niagara River; including a major coal power generation plant, fuel storage facilities and refinery.

- Bulk commodities that pass through Black Rock Lock and Tonawanda Harbor generate approximately \$5M annually in direct revenue which supports over 72 jobs.
- These jobs generate over \$2.7M per year in personal income.

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, 2009 and 2010 Black Rock Lock and Tonawanda Harbor, New York Project Needs and President's Budget (\$1,000)**

<b>Work Package</b>	<b>FY08 Need</b>	<b>FY08 Allocation</b>	<b>FY09 Need</b>	<b>FY09 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY10 Need</b>	<b>FY10 President's Budget*</b>
Operation of Lock	758	758	775	775	780	
Formal Periodic Inspection Reports					51	
Environmental Compliance (5-year External Audit)					20	
E&D and Construction, Removal of Middle Gates					750	
E&D and Construction, Lower Gate Fendering	200				225	
E&D Lower West Guide Wall					250	
Structure Repair – Bird Island Pier					300	
Construction, Repair Lower Operating Gate Sill	150		300		300	
Construction, Repair Lower Guard Gate Sill	200		305		305	
Controls Upgrade					235	
Project Conditions Survey					245	
Maintenance of Lock	425	407	400	400	400	
Facility Security	50	50			60	
Snagging and Clearing (F/P)	40	40			45	
Public Visitation Tracking, Bird Island Pier	10	10	10	10	15	
Environmental Inventory	20				20	
Historic Properties Management Plan	65		50	50	20	
Water Control Data Collection					38	
Maintenance Dredging – Backlog Work Package			1,485			
Maintenance Dredging – Primary Work Package					1,130	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>3,325</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>5,189</b>	

\*FY10 President's Budget will be available in February 2009

### **Congressional Interests**

- Representative Brian Higgins D-NY-27
- Senator Hillary Clinton D-NY
- Senator Charles Schumer D-NY